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XI. — *Bogus and his Crew*

BY CHARLES P. G. SCOTT

SOME years ago I had the honor to read before this Association a paper on "The Devil and his Imps." At another time I read a paper on "Assumed Singulars." I have concerned myself also with what I may call nursery etymology — by which I mean, not the etymologies put forth by callow writers on etymology, but etymologies that deal with the languages of the nursery, and with the development of words that start from the babbling of children in the cradle and are modified by the answering babble of nurses, including mothers, grandmothers, papas, uncles, and other persons who, in the presence of the cradle, begin to babble and to jibber.

It happens that all these lines of research converge upon the subject of this paper, "*Bogus and his Crew*." For *Bogus* is a devil — or one of the Devil's Imps.

The etymology of *Bogus* has often been given, but has never before been ascertained. And yet *Bogus* is a venerable English word, and has come to us out of the mists of antiquity.

In a case on trial in an English court, the eloquent advocate on one side had occasion to reprobate the conduct of a man who was a witness for the opposing side. "My learned friend," he exclaimed, "may try to gloss over this incident; but I describe it, in plain downright Anglo-Saxon words, as a nefarious transaction." (*Notes and Queries*, Aug. 12, 1899, p. 137.)

I think I can show that *bogus* is plain Anglo-Saxon, in a greater degree than "a nefarious transaction."

But *bogus* in its present use actually did arise in a nefarious transaction. It was unwittingly set in motion by a gang of counterfeiters in Ohio.

The facts which I am about to quote are narrated in a little-known pamphlet published in 1878 by Mr. Eber D. Howe, a then aged editor and printer of Painesville, Ohio. It is entitled "Autobiography and Reminiscences of a Pioneer Printer,

together with Sketches of the War of 1812 on the Niagara Frontier. By Eber D. Howe, Painesville, Ohio. Telegraph Steam Printing House, 1878." Dr. Samuel Willard of Chicago cald Mr. Howe's narrative to the attention of the editors of the Oxford English Dictionary, where two extracts ar given from Mr. Howe's pamflet and his newspaper, the *Painesville Telegraph*, of 1827. Later, at my request, Professor Oliver F. Emerson of Western Reserve University obligingly visited Painesville, and made from the pamflet and from a file of the *Painesville Telegraph* the extracts which I here quote.

On page 34 of the 'Autobiography and Recollections' appears a description of the arrest of a gang of counterfeiters and a search for their tools. The search was made in a bilding in the main part of the town. A trap door was discovered. It was raised, and — here I quote Mr. Howe :

"Below this was found a hole scooped out in the sand some ten feet broad, in the center of which they dug some two feet deep and unearthed and brought to light a solid piece of cast iron, nearly square, with a hole four inches square in the center, and a screw running from the top down to the hole, all about 200 pounds in weight. Several of these had been cast at a neighboring furnace in Concord. The *thing* was a great wonderment for some time among the crowd that had collected around. Many remarks and suggestions were made as to the name it bore, or the one that should be given to it. Finally someone called it a 'Bogus.' Now it has ever been a query to me whether the word then and there did not have its origin. I had never seen it in print, or knew of anyone that had. It was the next week printed in the 'Telegraph' [Professor Emerson informs me that this is a mistake], and from that day to this has ever been freely used and applied to express the idea of base or counterfeit money, and falsehood or deceit of all kinds. And so within the last fifty years it has found its way into Webster's Unabridged, and perhaps all other vocabularies."

It will be seen that the word, as used in 1827, was applied to the apparatus for coining counterfeit silver money. This appears in the following extracts from articles in the *Painesville Telegraph*: ("Painesville Telegraph | Printed and Published in the Village of Painesville, Geauga County, Ohio. | E. D. Howe, Editor and Proprietor, Office Fronting the Public Square, Painesville.")

The first extract is from "Vol. v, No. 52, Friday Morning, July 6, 1827." It is an editorial comment, referring to a letter from a contributor concerning the gang of counterfeiters

recently captured in Painesville. The note is in the second editorial column :

"If the fellow will now 'pledge himself in the most solemn manner,' that he never procured the casting of a *Bogus*, at one of our furnaces, I will then give him a 'solemn' pledge that I will no longer subscribe myself

EXPOSITOR."

In the same newspaper, on Friday, Nov. 2, 1827, appeared this editorial comment on the trial of the counterfeiters captured in the preceding May. The editor was bitter because only two of the eleven bound over were convicted. The italics are his :

"The eight or ten *boguses*, which have been for some time in operation, and the new ones which are frequently put in motion, are but illy supplied with hands and *runners* — great wages will be given to first-rate eastern villains, who come well recommended from a Penitentiary. They will be paid off in dollars by the barrel or pound. Several Boguses have recently been procured at Pittsburg, at a very *low rate*; and should a suitable location be required, the centre of Main street in Ashtabula or Painesville, the township of Boston or any of the adjoining towns, in Portage county, or any part of the township of Springfield in Penn. will offer every facility."

It will be seen, that even in those early times enterprising men from the East were willing to help men in Ohio and in Pittsburg to make money. But if there are any "first-rate eastern villains" here present, with the specified recommendation from a penitentiary, I can only inform them that it is now too late. The business men of Ohio and of Pittsburg evidently need no points from the East in the arts of finance, high or low.

The word *bogus*, as used by one of the men present at the discovery of the queer coining-press, was used by him correctly, as I shall show, but it was understood in an other sense. Apparently no one else had heard the word until that moment, as they ascribed to it a meaning which the circumstances indicated. The circumstances were the sudden discovery, by digging in the ground, under a trap-door, in a dim light, and in a state of excitement, of a rude iron apparatus, black and dirty — a machine of a kind unfamiliar to most or all of those present.

So *bogus* began to be used in the vague sense of a press for stamping counterfeit silver coin.

This led very soon to the use of the word as an attributive or adjectiv, designating counterfeit coins, and hence counterfeit money of any kind, and so other counterfeit and false things. The word first entered the dictionary domain under the convoy of Bartlett's 'Dictionary of Americanisms,' first edition, New York, 1848, p. 41. It there appears not in the single form *bogus*, but (and this is significant) in the phrase "BOGUS MONEY," defined as "counterfeit silver coin." The application of *bogus* to a coining press had little currency, and soon disappeared, and *bogus* was used only in the adjectiv way. The word was too convenient to be rejected by the journalists and politicians, who are otherwise so finical in their use of words. They used the word *bogus* "for all it was worth," and more. This gave the word an added touch of disfavor. Moreover, the word itself designated a highly objectionable thing, counterfeit money. Of all the things that offend the moral sense, there is none that offends the moral sense so effectively as counterfeit money. It is really wrong to pass counterfeit money, — at least on me, — such was the popular view. The consequence was that persons who endeavored to write with 'propriety' looked upon the word *bogus* with professional horror.

Deprecated by American writers themselves, *bogus* was treated by British writers as a vile 'Americanism' (tho it came to us, as I shall show, from the very bosom of the British nursery). But all the later quotations given by the editors of the Oxford English Dictionary, for the adjectiv *bogus*, are from British authors, namely, from Mortimer Collins, Robert Giffen, William Black ('Green Pastures and Piccadilly'), and from British periodicals. I note the word also in Herbert Spencer ('Principles of Ethics,' 1893, 2:384), in Montagu Williams, and in Mrs. Humphry Ward. It is used by Dr. Murray in the normal course of definitions in the Oxford English Dictionary, namely under *buffle*, *note-shaver*, and under *bogus* itself.

Bogus Money. Counterfeit silver coin. A few years since, a large quantity of this coin was in circulation at the West, where it received this name.

1848 BARTLETT, *Dictionary of Americanisms*, p. 41.

In his second edition (1859) Bartlett enters the single word as a general adjectiv :

Bogus, *adj.* Counterfeit, false.

1859 BARTLETT, *Dictionary of Americanisms*, p. 42.

He quotes from the *Boston Courier* of June 12, 1857, an account of the origin of the word as "a corruption of the name of one Borghese" — obviously a fanciful notion.

Bogus is not entered in Webster 1828, 1849, 1853; Worcester 1846, 1856; Knowles 1845; Halliwell 1847; Cooley 1860; Stormonth 1879; Davies 1881; Skeat 1882. It is not entered in Hall, 'Collection of College Words and Customs,' 1851. It has never been considered as a college word.

The earliest quotation for the adjectiv sense of *bogus* given in the Oxford English Dictionary is the following :

This precious house of representatives — the bogus legislature, as it was at once called.

1852 HUGHES in *J. Ludlow Hist. U.S.* 338.

A few years later we find a quotation showing that this use of *bogus* was regarded as "slang," deserving the "abhorrence" of a "learned judge," who was reported (in the *Boston Daily Courier*, June 22, 1857) as "saying that he did not know the meaning of 'bogus transactions.'"

I have noted the following early examples :

George N. Briggs . . . Governor of . . . Massachusetts . . . He is not a *bogus* republican, friendly on election days and forgetful at other times.

1854 GEORGE W. BUNGAY, *Off-hand takings; or, Crayon Sketches of the Noticeable Men of our Age*, p. 250.

"Have you any more of that Insurance stock?" "Not a dollar. It is all hypothecated." "Better keep it there," said Mr. Gripe, with a quiet but very meaning smile . . . "Well, to tell the truth (and Mr. Arnold laughed at the possibility of such a thing) I smelled a very large rat this morning, Arnold. It's bogus from top to bottom."

1856 CHARLES BURDETT, *Three per cent a month*, ch. 20, p. 208.

St. George . . . he was ultimately Lynched by the mob of Alexandria, for the tyranny and oppression which he had practised whilst he was bogus Archbishop of that see.

1858 *Punch*, 'Saint George and Saint Joe,' 34: 60 (Feb. 6).

Bogus, bad coin, false.

1859 G. W. MATSELL, *Vocabulum, or The Rogue's Lexicon*, p. 13.

Dora . . . and Hall . . . inspected me critically. Was I bogus? Their looks said, they thought not.

1862 WINTHROP, *Cecil Dreeme*, ch. 4, p. 45.

But what is the etymology of the word *bogus*? That depends on the sense we ar to give to the word as used by the

man who spoke it at the discovery of the thing which proved to be a counterfeiting press. We are told that "some one called it a Bogus." This means, I think, not that he so defined the thing, but that he used the word "bogus" in speaking of the thing. He was using a word that he knew before that day, a word that was probably familiar to him in his childhood.

What he meant was, "That is a queer-looking thing, a strange, black thing." For *bogus*, as he used it, was simply a lax pronunciation of *boghest*, a name, in some parts of Yorkshire, for a goblin of the night, a bogle, a bogie.

The word *boghest* is also found spelt *boguest* and *bohghest*. The first element is *bo*, spelt *boe*, and also *boh*, in variation *boo*. This is a syllable of infant terror. According to a fairy etymology, which has the recognition of Dr. Johnson, *Bo* was the name of "an ancient northern warrior, the son of Odin," who was so ferocious that his very name was "calculated," as the reporters say, to "strike terror into the hearts of the enemy." Nurses, therefore, we are told, when they wished to scare the children into fits, or to silence them, would simply mention the name of General Bo, and the thing was done. To make General Bo a descendant of Odin was a natural result of the legend. Precisely the same thing has been done for another great warrior, General Washington.

The explosiv syllable *bo* is used by Lydgate (c. 1430); and Skinner (1671) says that *bo* is a word of terror with which nurses in Lincolnshire used to silence vocal infants.

Speake now, let me se,
And say ones, bo.

c. 1430 LYDGATE, *The Smyth and his Dame*, l. 407 (in Hazlitt, *Early Pop. Poetry*, 1866, 3: 216).

BO. Terriculamentum, vox agri Linc. propria, a sono nutricum infantes territantium.

1671 SKINNER, *Etymologicon Anglicum*.

We start and are afraid when we hear one cry Boh!

1829 SCOTT, *Demonology*, 6: 178.

Bo as an exclamation appears in Johnson (1755), Ash (1775), Sheridan (1780), etc., and in some of the dialect glossaries. It was early seen that he was brave who could "say *bo* to a goose":

Yet who so bold as blind Bayard, that hath not a word of Latin to cast at a dog, or say 'Bo!' to a goose!

c. 1596 PETER BALES, cited in HONE, *Every-Day Book*, 1826, I: 544.

He cannot say boe to a Goose.

1659 HOWELL, *Proverbs or Old sayed Sawves & Adages*, p. 17 (*Lex. Tetraglotton*, 1660).

In its origin, *bo* is simply an explosiv syllable, consisting of *b*, which marks the closed lips ready to explode, and the sonorous vowel *o* with which the lips explode. It is the *bo* that appears in the old game of *bo-peep*, which is also cald *peep-bo*, the two forms indicating the order in which the mother or nurse says *bo*! and then peeps above the handkerchief or apron behind which she has, for the moment, conceald her face.

This syllable *bo*, being thus a natural utterance, used in the universal language of nursery play, appears in languages remote from the English. I find it included not only in French, Low German, and Italian, but in Arabic (Spiro, 1881), and in Hindustani (Fallon, 1879). Fallon defines the Hindustani *bū* as meaning "*bo*, a contraction used to frighten children" (p. 278). He explains *bū* as a contraction of *bhūt*, a goblin, but *bhūt*, a goblin, was originally a 'being,' and comes from the root *bhū*, to be.

The word *bo* appears not only in *bo-peep* and *peep-bo*, but also in the Scottish *bo-keck*, a form parallel to *bo-peep*.

It also appears, alone and in composition, in a number of trivial names for rural goblins. Beside *bo-ghest* and *bo-ghost*, I find *bo*, *bo-bo*, *bo-boy*, *bo-chap*, *bo-cruke*, *bo-fellow*, *bo-lo*, *bo-man*, *bo-sweep*, *bo-thing*, *bo-witch*, and *bo-woman*, — all of which are goblins of limited reputation in some of the rural circles of England and Scotland. See especially F. K. Robinson, 'Glossary of the Dialect of Whitby in Yorkshire,' 1876.

Bo. Hobgoblin. Welsh, *bo*.

1828 [CARR], *Craven Gloss*. I: 39.

Bo, a hobgoblin, is also in Halliwell (1847), and in Peacock, 'Gloss. of . . . Lonsdale' (1869, p. 10).

Bo-man has a parallel in Low German *bumann*:

Bumann: Popantz womit man die kinder schrecket: Terriculamentum puerorum.

1755 RICHEY, *Idioticon Hamburgense*, p. 28.

The syllable *bo* has a Dutch equivalent *bau*, *bauw* in the Dutch *bietebau* (1573), *beitebauw* (1599), *biete-bauw* (1648), *bijtebauw* (1599), Flemish *bietebaeuw* (Olinger 1834), apparently from *bieten* (Kilian), *bijten* = E. BITE + *bau*, *bauw* = E. BO.

Bietebau / boeseman / bommeler. Loupgarou ou autre masquerie pour faire peur aux enfans. Larue, persone, lamia, momme, arum.

1573 *Thesaurus Teutonicæ Lingue* . . . Antverpiæ, Plantini.

Bietebauw / bijtel auw. Manducus, larua, spectrum.

1599 KILIAN (repr. 1777), 1: 66.

een Biete-bauw, ofte bommelaer, a Night-Spirit, a Goblin, or a Hob-goblin. 1648 HEXHAM, *Large Netherdutch and English Dictionarie*.

Bietebauw . . . bullebak; (fig.) spook, nachtmerrie.

1884 VAN DALE, *Nieuw Woordenboek der nederl. Taal*, p. 238.

Bijdebauw (wvl. BIDELOW, zie IJ en AU), m. Bijtebauw, ook Bijbauw, Biebauw en Pikkebauw, holl. Bullebak, boeman geheeten, bij de Walen *bête-bou*, eng. (Cheshire), *buggy-bo* (Liverpool), *baw-key*. Soort van nachtspook waar men de kinders meê verschrikt.

1892 DE BO, *Westvlaamsch Idioticon*, p. 113.

Bo was repeated *in terrorem majorem*, *bo bo* or *bo!* *bo!*

[Robin Goodfellow loq.:] Tush! fear not the dodge: I'll rather put on my flashing red nose, and my flaming face and come wrap'd in a calfskin and cry *bo bo*: I'll pay the scholar I warrant thee.

1606 Wily Beguiled (cited in RITSON, *Fairy Tales*, 1831, p. 40).

The reduplicate form *bobo* is found in other languages:

Bobo. Mot dont on se sert pour exprimer quelque leger mal que l'on a fait à un enfant. On luy a fait un bobo. il m'a fait un bobo.

1694 *Le Dictionnaire de l'Académie françoise* (facsim. repr. 18**), 1: 106. [*Bobo* is not in Cotgrave, 1611.]

Bobo. Mal, douleur. Terme enfantin qu'on retrouve dans notre V.-Français, dans le Milan. *boba*, et dans le Sicil. *bubua*.

1851 CORBLET, *Glossaire . . . du patois Picard*, p. 297.

Montois *beuben*, ombre, fantôme ("a ghost to frighten children"); Languedoc *babau*, "le croque-mitaine des Languedociens"; Français *babeau*.

1866 SIGART, *Glossaire étym. Montois*, p. 85.

In the Negro-English of Dutch Guiana *boeboe* (= **bubu*) is found:

Boebbe, znw. kinderverschrikking, gedrogt, monster; (2) naam van een insect. *Meki boeboe*, een leelijk gezigt trekken, om iemand (een kind h.v.) te verschrikken; (3) grillen toonen. Sôso a de meki dâ boebôe so, het zijn niets dan kuren, hij meent het niet.

1855 FOCKE, *Neger-Engelsch Woordenboek*, p. 13.

In Italian it is *bau-bau*, *baobao*:

Baubau, boe-peepe, boe, to feare children with.

1598 FLORIO.

Bao bdo, to play bo-peepe with children.

1598 FLORIO.

Bao bdo, boe-peepe or peepingly.

1611 FLORIO.

The second element of *boghest* is *-gest*, *-ghest*, which is a weak form, in composition, of the word *ghost*, the Middle English having the corresponding long form *gēst*, answering to Anglo-Saxon *gǣst*, and having also the form familiar to us, *ghost*, Middle English *gōst*, Anglo-Saxon *gāst*, our modern *gost*, speld *ghost*, where the *h*, always a fearsome thing in modern British, is supposed to give a pleasing added terror.

This word *boghest* is not widely recorded, but it is recorded enough for our purpose. It is found, in Halliwell (1847), in F. K. Robinson's 'Glossary of the Dialect of Whitby in Yorkshire' (1876), and in the English Dialect Dictionary. The analytic form *bo-ghost* is also recorded.

But *boghest* is clearly of ancient origin. It gave rise to a surname that was used in New England in Colonial times. The surname *Boggust* is recorded by Bowditch in his 'Suffolk Surnames' (1861) as one of the names found in the old records of Boston, but, according to Bowditch, "extinct" there in 1861. I find the surname, speld *Boggess*, existing in Colorado in 1907, and in Ohio in 1909. *Boggis* is mentioned in 1907. This is one of a number of goblin names that were applied to persons about whom there was something queer or grotesque. We have an exact parallel in the surname *Bargus*, which is derived in a similar way from an other goblin name which is much more familiar than *boghest*, and which supplies in its variations a corroboration of this etymology of the word *boghest*. I refer to the word *barghest*.

This word *barghest* is also speld *barguest*, *bargheist*, *barghast*, and *barghaist*. It is also speld *bargest*. This, however, is the correct spelling, and is therefore rejected by all respectable writers. The *barghest* is a goblin, which, in happier days, used to appear whenever and wherever any person was scared, or was drunk, or was otherwise prepared for an exercise of the imagination. In a lonely lane, in a dark glen, in the orchard at night, in the barn or in the stable, the *barghest* would appear. Among his favorite haunts were the stile by which one walked over the fence, and the bars which were taken down to allow passage for beast and man. All the accounts agree that the *barghest* was fond of appear-

ing at bars ; but this, I am persuaded, was only in answer to a popular etymology. When the barghest learned that his etymology did not require him to linger about the bars, he abandoned them—thus setting an example to the honest farmer, who did not, however, abandon the bars at which he prepared himself to see barghests and other bogles.

By an other popular etymology, not so popular, this goblin took the form of a *barn-ghest*, in graceful allusion to his haunting the barn or the stable ; but this etymology must be regarded as very unstable.

The fact is, that the etymology of this word, like that of *bogus*, has been in doubt because there are no early records of its use. Belonging to the language of rustic superstition, the word, when it did meet the attention of the learned, was ignored as unworthy of record. It is a habit of literary men in all ages to regard as 'ignorant' or 'vile' any expressions which they do not happen to understand, and thus to refuse even to record words that are in some cases of high antiquity and of respectable lineage.

The first element of *barghest* is *bar-*, which represents, in certain rustic words, the Middle English *ber3*, Anglo-Saxon *beorh*, meaning a hill, a hillock, a mound, a barrow. *Barrow* is, in fact, the normal modern English representative of the word. The Middle English *ber3*, *berwe*, *barwe* in composition, lost, before certain consonants, its final palatal, or the syllable developed by it, and became *ber-*, and later *bar-*. It so appears in *barman*, a miner, in *barmaster*, the superintendent of a mine, in *barmote*, a miners' court, and in *barway*, a road up a hill. There is no record of the Middle English form of the word *barghest*, but it must have existed. Its analytic meaning is 'barrow ghost,' that is, it seems, a ghost that was supposed to haunt the barrows, or burial mounds,—in short, a graveyard ghost. But the 'barrow' may have been used at first in the more common sense of 'hill,' with its complement 'hillside' or 'dell.'

The first element, reduced to *bar-*, lost its significance, and thus opened the way for a wider extension of the ghost's walk, so that it could haunt, not only graveyards, but bars

and stiles, barns and stables, hay-stacks and orchards, and could finally appear in city houses, after the manner of the Cock Lane ghost.

There is a welth of legend clusterd round the name *barghest*. It past from rustic speech into literature dealing with rustic conditions. It is found, therefore, in some of the novels of Sir Walter Scott, and was used by Southey, and other writers.

Here we hav a word similar in form, and exactly alike in termination, with *boghest*. Indeed, the English Dialect Dictionary enters *boghest* as one of the forms of *barghest*; but this is a mistake.

But the most useful purpose which this goblin *barghest* serves now, is to provide a series of forms parallel to those which must hav been produced from *boghest*, but which ar unrecorded, except *bogus* itself, and the surnames *Boggust*, *Boggess*, *Boggis*. The word *barghest*, being a rustic word of very frequent use, entering into the daily life and nightly gossip of the people, took many forms, which ar recorded in the English Dialect Dictionary. Among these forms ar *bargust*, and without the *t*, *bargus*, *bargis*, *bargess*. Here we hav forms that indicate the existence of similar forms from *boghest*, namely, **bogess*, **bogis*, and *bogus*. It is merely an accident that, when the word emerged in the figurativ application that gave it American currency, it appeard in the form *bogus*. If the person who then wrote it down had chosen to do so, he might hav written it **bogess* or **bogis*. So there is a surname *Pettis*, written also *Pettus*.

And this leads to the next step in this strange eventful history. The word, whether speld **bogess* or **bogis*, or **bogus*, had existed for a long time before, and certainly in the 18th century. And here we come to the operation of that 'popular etymology,' which has made in so many cases new singulars from words which are themselvs singular, but which end in an *s* or *z* sound, and are therefore sometimes taken by the illiterate for plurals in *s*, leading to the assumption of a new singular without the *s*. In the paper which I hav mentiond I enumerated more than 120 cases of this kind. I

could now enumerate more than 200 cases. Among the classical examples of this kind, of older age, are *cherry* from *cherries*, earlier *cherries*, *cheris*, a singular. An other example, not so well known, which I mention for its rustic associations, is *bully*, a small black plum, taken as the assumed singular of *bullace*, heard as *bullies*, originally Middle English *bolas*. So also *porpy* for *porpus*, *porpoise*; *pummy* for *pumice*; *turky* for *turkis*, otherwise *turquese*, *turquoise*; etc.

In this rustic manner, in the rural atmosphere, unvetted by books and pedants, it occurred to the historians of the nursery, the rhapsodists of the rustic fireside, to take **bogess*, or **bogis*, or *bogus*, as a plural. They spoke of *boghests*, but doubtless also of **boghestes* and **bogeses*, just as they spoke, as records show, of *ghostes* and *ghosteses*. In fact, the plural *boguses* occurs in one of the quotations already cited from the *Painesville Telegraph* (1827), as the name for the presses for coining counterfeit silver.

But beside this long plural there evidently arose the short plural *bogis*, pronounced as **bogies* and understood as the plural of an assumed singular *bogy*, spelt also *bogie*, *bogey*, and *boguey*. And this is the origin of *bogy* in the sense of goblin, and of *Bogy*, or *Old Bogy*, the goblin by excellence; and of 'Colonel *Bogey*,' the devilish expert in golf.

The earliest record of *bogy* in this sense in the Oxford English Dictionary is that dated 1836-40. But I find *Bogy* used in 1819 as a recognized epithet of the Duke of Buckingham, who took part in the Congress of Aix la Chapelle in that year. The word is twice so applied in Thomas Moore's essay in prize-fight slang, "Tom Crib's Memorial to Congress" (1819).

While well might poor Bogy B-ck-gh-m look pale,
As there stood a great Rat-catcher close to his tail!

1819 [MOORE], *Tom Crib's Memorial to Congress*, ed. 3,
1819, p. 10. [Also on p. 24.]

But hears the words 'Scratch' and 'Old Bogey' and 'Nick.'

1836-40 BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends, Witches' Frolic*.

The people are all naughty, and Bogey carries them all off.

1851 THACKERAY, *English Humorists*, v (1858), 239.

Bogy, a goblin, is recorded in recent dialect glossaries, e.g. Robinson, 'Gloss. . . Whitby' (1876); Peacock, 'Gloss. . .

Manley and Corringham, Lincolnshire' (1877); Addy, 'Gloss. . . Sheffield' (1888-90).

Bogy . . . Bogle and boggle quite unknown. Th' 'oss jump'd a one zide, . . . jist the very same's 'off he'd a-zeed a bogy. Fear'd o' the dark! hot b'ee feard o'? D'ee think you'll zee a bogy?

1886 ELWORTHY, *West Somerset Word-book*.

Black-man. A bogy.

1891 CHOPE, *Dialect of Hartland* (E.D.S.), p. 89.

Bogie. A chil'l's name for the reflection of sunlight upon water thrown upon the walls of a room.

1888 LOWSLEY, *Gloss. of Berkshire Words and Phrases*.

Bogy is also applied to a person absurdly dressed, a 'guy' (Robinson, 'Gloss. . . . Whitby,' 1876). Hence, at least in part, the surname *Bogy*, *Bogie*, parallel to *Boggis*, *Boggess*, *Boggust* (p. 167).

The word *bo* is also found as the second element of several goblin-names. One is *boggle-bo*, *bogle-bo*.

Boggleboe, manducus, terriculamentum.

1679 COLES, *Eng. Dict.*

Boggle boe, manducus, 2, terriculamentum.

1761 AINSWORTH, *Thesaurus Ling. Lat. Compendiarius*.

Boggleboe. A bugbear to fright children, a scarecrow.

1755 BAILEY.

Boggleboe (s. a. low word, from *boggle* and *bo*). A bugbear, a scarecrow.

Scott [in BAILEY].

1775 ASH, *New and Complete Eng. Dict.*

Boggle-Boe is said to be derived from the Welch *bugwly*, to terrify, and *Boe*, a frightful Sound invented by Nurses to intimidate their Children into good Behaviour, with the idea of some monster about to take them away. Skinner seems to fetch it from *Buculus*, i.e. Bos boans! See Lye's Junii Etymolog. in verbo, etc. Well has Etymology been called the *Eruditio ad libitum*!

1777 BRAND, *Observations on Popular Antiquities*, p. 116.

My mammy bid me gan to bed,

My daddy he said, 'No.'

My mammy sai'l, if I wad na gan,

She would fetch the Boggle-bo.

1824 BROCKETT, *Gloss. of North Country Words*, ed. 3, 1846, 1, 45.

Boggy-bo. A goblin. *North*. Sometimes pronounced *bugabo*.

1847 HALLIWELL.

Bogle-i-bo. A word used to frighten children.

1849 [DINSDALE], *Teesdale Gloss*, p. 13.

Boggy-bo, n. A goblin.

1869 PEACOCK, *Gloss. of the Dial. of the Hundred of Lonsdale*, p. 10.

Like other words of this class, this word is found applied vaguely to anything offensive:

Boggie-baw, sb Anything nasty or disgusting. Used in speaking to children. (N. Cy.)

1898 *Eng. Dial. Dict.*, 'List of words kept back, from the want of further information,' p. xxii.

The goblin *bogglebo* has a history. The word *boggle*, otherwise *bogle*, exists separately in the same sense. Boggles pervade many pages of Scottish legend and literature. But *boggle*, Scottish *bogle*, has nothing to do with *boghest* and *bogus*. It belongs to a more extensive group of goblin names, which I may make a subject of a later discourse. Let it suffice to say here that *bogglebo*, *boglebo* (with variants *boggly-bo*, *bogle-i-bo*, *buggle-boo*, etc.), became, in the easy utterance of the fireside historians, reduced to *boggybo* and *buggybo*, with variants *buggyboo*, *boggie-baw*, *boggy-boy*, and so to a form which has entered literature as *bugabo*, *bugaboo*, where the unstressed vowel *a* represents the unstressed 'syllabic' vowel or semi-vowel *-l*, and *boo* is a variant of *bo*.

An other goblin name ending in this *bo* is *knocky-bo*, a goblin of the mine, known in Cornwall as a *knocker*.

And an other is *brownie-bae*, a name in Buchan of the brownie, where *bae* is the normal Scottish form of *bo*.

But there comes Robie, flaught-braid down the brae;
How wild he glowrs, like some daft brownie-bae!

1804 TARRAS, *Poems*, p. 3 (Jamieson).

The next apparition of *bogy* has a direct bearing upon the realities of our present life. *Bogy* meant a goblin, a strange, black, fearful object. In certain mines in England the miners applied the word *bogy* to a small car or truck used in the mines. This is entered in the dictionaries as a separate word, oftenest spelt *bogie*, which spelling, for the temporary purposes of this paper, I shall here retain; but it is the same word as *bogy*, a goblin. A small car or truck, having a limited industrial use, and having no historical or vernacular name, and being an object small, black, and uncertain, appearing suddenly out of the darkness in the drifts and turns of the mine, would be an object of some trouble and annoyance, and was called by the miners, by a name already known to them for something else that was black and troublesome, a *bogy*.

We have analogies to this in the application of the word *devil* itself to various mechanical appliances, the term alluding to the blackness of the thing, or to its quick, uncertain, or dangerous motion; for example, a *go-devil* is a device used

to clear out obstructed pipes. So the *dobby*, a moving part of a loom (cald also a *witch*), owes its name to *dobby*, a goblin.

Thus the term *bogie*, applied to a small truck used in and about the mines, was later applied to other small trucks, used above ground, and so entered into a wide development in factories and industrial establishments. *Bogie* was applied, for example, to the trucks of the first locomotives, and still continues in such use.

Bogie, the tram, or truck, used by the Newcastle Quayside cartmen.

1824 BROCKETT, *Gloss. of North Country Words*, ed. 3, 1846, 1: 45.

In Dean Street when carts or when bogies come down,
The noise made one's heart glad, one's lugs fit to stoun.

1835 GILCHRIST, *Sng. of Improvements* (quoted in Heslop, cited below).

Bogie, n. A kind of cart with low wheels and long shafts, used by masons to move large stones.

1869 PEACOCK, *Glossary of the Dialect of the Hundred of Lonsdale*, p. 10.

Bogie, G. A sledge on wheels.

1878 DICKINSON, *Cumberland gloss.* (E.D.S.) p. 9. [Not in ed. 1859.] [No mention of *bogy* in any other sense.]

Bogie. The word is applied to any low truck for the carriage of casks or other merchandise; to the small truck of the plate-layer so familiar on our railways; and to the flat board with four small wheels used by boys in play for running down a hill.

1892-94 HESLOP, *Northumberland Words*.

Bogie wheels occurs in 1840 and 1855, *bogie engine* in 1843, *bogy frames* in 1851, *bogie truck* in 1869, *bogie carriage* in 1880. *Bogie-barrow* is said to have been "known in Fife for sixty years and more" before 1888.

Finally, there was an other development which has not been recognized. The word *bogie*, applied in this indefinite way to small trucks, or light cars used about the mines, came to be applied to certain other light vehicles that needed a name. There came into use in the middle of the 18th century a carriage that was lighter and more convenient than the heavy coaches that had long been in use. It was two-wheeled or four-wheeled. It could be drawn by one horse or by two. It became known as a **bogie*, speld, in the plural, '*bougées*,' Aug. 29, 1767, in a letter printed in 'Notes and Queries,' 1901, 9: 7: 148. It soon appeared in periodicals (1773, 1778) as *buggy*, and in that form entered dictionary record: "*Buggy* . . . A two-wheeled carriage" — 1780 Sheridan. As the vehicle had in the mean time become popular in India (1782),

many persons in England heard about it first in association with India. Some thought it was an Indian word. John Shakespear entered the word in his 'Hindustani and English Dictionary' in 1817, in the Hindustani form *baghi*, and defined it as a light carriage. Fallon (1879, p. 266) gives it as "*baggi*, illiterate *bagghi*," and refers it both to English, and to a Hindi root.

Driving a post coach and four against a single horse chaise, throwing out the driver of it, and breaking the chaise to pieces . . . ludicrously denominating mischief of this kind, 'Running down the Buggies.'

1773 *Gentleman's Mag.* 43: 297.

'Mong the vehicles, too, which were many and various,

From *natty barouche* down to *buggy* precarious,

We *twigg'd* more than one *queerish* sort of *turn-out*. . . .

1819 [MOORE] *Tom Crib's Memorial to Congress*, p. 10.

"For Heaven's sake, see if my buggy's at the door." . . . "Joseph wants me to see if his — buggy is at the door. What is a buggy, papa?" "It is a one-horse palanquin," said the old gentleman, who was a wag in his way. 1849 THACKERAY, *Vanity Fair*, Vol. I, ch. 3.

The word *buggy* in part displaced the synonym *gig*, which as applied to a light vehicle had also a trivial rustic origin — a name without any near relevancy to a vehicle, adopted because of a remote relevancy, and because it made no strain on the intellectual faculties. There is an other analogy between *gig* and *buggy*. In England a man was respectable if he kept a *gig*. In America a man was respectable if he kept a *buggy*.

We are witnessing now the slow decline of this vehicle in popular favor, apparently because of the intrusion of an other vehicle which has obtained a name of similar import. Whereas a *buggy* was originally a *bogy*, a devil, so the automobile has been recognized, with much more justis, as an emissary of the devil, and is cald a 'devil-wagon.' I may mention here, by the way, that Victor Hugo in the 'Toilers of the Sea' says that the first steam-boats plying between the coast of France and the coast of England were cald by the people 'devil-boats' — an other recognition of the principal agency at the bottom of our vehicular civilization.

Buggy became popular also in Jamaica, where, in 1867, it was noted as an American carriage, and where, in 1905, Dr. Talcott Williams noted it as one of the words ("*Buggy*,

spelled also *Bughie*") prominent in the vocabulary of that island.

And the same word, in the same form, is found in precisely the earlier sense of *bogie*, namely *buggy*, a small mine wagon.

Buggy, a small mine wagon holding $\frac{1}{2}$ ton to 1 ton of coal.

1861 RAYMOND, *Mining Glossary*.

Such, in brief form, is a statement, made public for the first time, of the etymology of *bogus*, and of *bogy*, *bogie*, and *buggy*. The world is full of bogus etymologies. Here I venture to offer a Bogus etymology that is genuin.

It may be objected to this explanation of four mysteries, that the words cited here ar; when first recorded, confined to a limited area and to few records; and that the dialect area of the word *bogie*, as applied to a little car or trolley or truck, is not identical with the dialect area of either *buggy*, or of the original *bogus*. But the discrepancy is only apparent. We do not know exactly the original dialect area of these words. The word *bogie*, as applied to a car or other mechanical appliance, and its variant *buggy*, as applied to a light vehicle, ar, in botanical language, 'escapes' from the original dialect garden. When the first group of dialect speakers, or even one dialect speaker, in any mine or factory, began to apply the term *bogie* to a little car or truck special in that particular work, the dialect word lost its dialect character, and it migrated with the course of that kind of business. Thus we hear of *bogie* as a local term in places distant from one an other.

Some question might be raised as to the vowel changes, but they ar all normal. *Bō-*, *bo-*, and *bū-*, *bu-*, *bŭ-*, ar normal variations of the same utterances, under varying conditions, and *-boo* in *bugaboo* is a riming variation of the explosiv syllable from which these words arose.

Tho the early history of these words is unrecorded, all the known facts about them concur with the explanation here given, and I hav found no facts which ar in discord with it. I take it, therefore, to be establisht.

We of the United States — I may say, we of Ohio — may thus claim to hav rescued, on the verge of extinction, a good old English word, partly, if not wholly, Anglo-Saxon — *Bogus*, a new apparition of the *Boghest*, and therefore a nursery goblin, as interesting, as respectable and as venerable, as any other goblin in the nursery encyclopedia, and own cousin of the giant who said “Fee, fi, *fo*, fum, I smell the blood of an English mun,” — for *Fo* is but a variant of the word of fear which made children tremble, and gave a fearful joy to the little man who first dared to ‘say *Bo* to a goose.’